

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently Amended) A footrest apparatus comprising:

a pair of left and right supporting members ~~(3)~~ ~~(3)~~ frontwardly projecting from a front portion of a ~~chair~~ ~~(2)~~ chair;

a ~~footrest~~ ~~(7)~~ footrest supported between the supporting members ~~(3)~~, ~~(3)~~ so as to be rotatable about a lateral ~~axis~~ ~~(4)~~ axis and provided with a lower limb massaging ~~portion~~ ~~(5)~~ portion on one surface thereof and a lower limb resting ~~surface~~ ~~(6)~~ surface on the other surface thereof on which lower ~~limbs~~ ~~(64)~~ limbs can be rested; and

a position switching ~~mechanism~~ ~~(8)~~ mechanism provided between one of the supporting member ~~(3)~~ members and the ~~footrest~~ ~~(7)~~ footrest for changing the position of the ~~footrest~~ ~~(7)~~ footrest between a massaging position in which the lower limb massaging ~~portion~~ ~~(5)~~ portion is oriented frontward, and a resting position in which the lower limb resting ~~surface~~ ~~(6)~~ surface is oriented frontward wherein the position switching mechanism comprises a disk-shaped rotary engagement member having an engagement portion for positionally fixing the footrest in the massaging position and an engagement portion for positionally fixing the same in the resting position on a peripheral edge thereof, the disk-shaped rotary engagement member being provided coaxially with the lateral axis, an engaging member moving toward and apart from the rotary engagement member in a radial direction thereof and detachably engaging the respective engagement portions selectively by

moving toward the same for restraining rotation of the rotary engagement member, a releasing device for moving the engaging member in the direction apart from the rotary engagement member for releasing the engagement, a released-state retaining device for retaining the released state by the releasing device, and an engagement restoring device for engaging the engaging member with the rotary engagement member by bringing the released-state retaining device into non-retaining state.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the releasing device ~~(15)~~ device includes a releasing ~~member (55)~~ member for moving the engaging ~~member (14)~~ member apart from the rotary engagement ~~member (13)~~ member.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the releasing ~~member (55)~~ member is provided on the outer surface of the supporting ~~member (3)~~ member.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the released-state retaining device ~~(16)~~ device includes a lock ~~portion (23)~~ portion provided on the engaging ~~member (14)~~ member and a released-state retaining ~~member (25)~~

member having an engagement ~~portion (24)~~ portion which can engage the lock ~~portion (23)~~ portion in a state in which the engaging ~~member (14)~~ member is moved apart.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the engagement restoring ~~device (17)~~ device includes a restoring ~~strip (26)~~ strip having a proximal end swingably supported at a position in the vicinity of the respective engagement portions ~~(12A) (12B)~~ of the rotary engagement ~~member (13)~~ member, and a distal end being capable of projecting and retracting from the peripheral ~~edge (11)~~ edge, so that the distal end is retracted from the peripheral ~~edge (11)~~ edge when the rotary engagement ~~member (13)~~ member rotates in one direction; and wherein the rotary engagement ~~member (13)~~ member includes a restraining ~~portion (27)~~ portion for restraining swinging movement of the restoring ~~strip (26)~~ strip to allow the distal end of the restoring ~~strip (26)~~ strip to project from the peripheral ~~edge (11)~~ edge to press the released-state retaining ~~member (25)~~ member in a retaining-state canceling direction when the rotary engagement ~~member (13)~~ member rotates in the other direction.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the released-state retaining ~~member (25)~~ member is disposed in the vicinity of the engaging ~~member (14)~~ member along the direction of the movement thereof toward and apart from the rotary engagement member.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the pair of supporting members ~~(3)~~ ~~(3)~~ are supported so as to be capable of swinging about a supporting ~~shaft~~ ~~(32)~~ shaft at a front portion of the ~~chair~~ ~~(2)~~ chair so that the vertical position of the ~~footrest~~ ~~(7)~~ footrest can be changed; wherein a retaining ~~device~~ ~~(29)~~ device for retaining the vertical position is provided; and wherein an operating ~~member~~ ~~(30)~~ member for releasing the retained state of the retaining ~~device~~ ~~(29)~~ device is provided on one of left and right outer surfaces of the chair.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to ~~claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein the pair of supporting members ~~(3)~~ ~~(3)~~ are supported so as to be capable of swinging about a supporting ~~shaft~~ ~~(32)~~ shaft at a front portion of the ~~chair~~ ~~(2)~~ chair so that the vertical position of the ~~footrest~~ ~~(7)~~ footrest can be changed; wherein a retaining ~~device~~ ~~(29)~~ device for retaining the vertical position is provided; and wherein an operating ~~member~~ ~~(30)~~ member for releasing the retained state of the retaining ~~device~~ ~~(29)~~ device is provided on one of left and right outer surfaces of the chair.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the pair of supporting members ~~(3)~~ ~~(3)~~ are supported so as to be capable of swinging about a supporting ~~shaft~~ ~~(32)~~ shaft at a front portion of the ~~chair~~ ~~(2)~~ chair so that the vertical position of the ~~footrest~~ ~~(7)~~ footrest can be changed; wherein a retaining ~~device~~ ~~(29)~~ device for retaining the vertical position is provided; and wherein an operating member (30) for

releasing the retained state of the retaining ~~device (29)~~ device is provided on one of left and right outer surfaces of the chair.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the pair of supporting members ~~(3)~~ (3) are supported so as to be capable of swinging about a supporting ~~shaft (32)~~ shaft at a front portion of the ~~chair (2)~~ chair so that the vertical position of the ~~footrest (7)~~ footrest can be changed; wherein a retaining ~~device (29)~~ device for retaining the vertical position is provided; and wherein an operating ~~member (30)~~ member for releasing the retained state of the retaining ~~device (29)~~ device is provided on one of left and right outer surfaces of the chair.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the pair of supporting members ~~(3)~~ (3) are supported so as to be capable of swinging about a supporting ~~shaft (32)~~ shaft at a front portion of the ~~chair (2)~~ chair so that the vertical position of the ~~footrest (7)~~ footrest can be changed; wherein a retaining ~~device (29)~~ device for retaining the vertical position is provided; and wherein an operating ~~member (30)~~ member for releasing the retained state of the retaining ~~device (29)~~ device is provided on one of left and right outer surfaces of the chair.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A footrest~~ The footrest apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the pair of supporting members ~~(3)~~ (3) are supported so as to be capable of swinging

about a supporting ~~shaft (32)~~ shaft at a front portion of the ~~chair (2)~~ chair so that the vertical position of the ~~footrest (7)~~ footrest can be changed; wherein a retaining ~~device (29)~~ device for retaining the vertical position is provided; and wherein an operating ~~member (30)~~ member for releasing the retained state of the retaining ~~device (29)~~ device is provided on one of left and right outer surfaces of the chair.

14. (Cancelled)